## INNA ETUVGI

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# **BIO, ARTIST STATEMENT and CURRICULUM VITAE**

Inna Etuvgi is a self-taught Swedish-Chukchi art photographer based in Sweden. Specialising in macro photography, her work captures the intricate structures of mosses, lichens, and dewdrops—natural elements often overlooked, yet vital to the health of ecosystems.

Born in 1982 in a remote Arctic village in Chukotka, Russia, Etuvgi was raised in a landscape where attentiveness to nature was a matter of survival. This early experience deeply shaped her artistic sensitivity.

She holds a Master's degree in Technical Cybernetics from St. Petersburg Polytechnic University (2005). Her background in science and technology informs her precise, detail-oriented visual language.

After relocating to Sweden in 2018, Etuvgi began exploring macro photography in 2020 as a means of connection and self-expression. Living with Aphantasia—the inability to form mental images—she developed a visual practice grounded in a quiet dialogue with nature, using photography to access and externalise inner experiences.

Her work has been exhibited internationally, including as a finalist in the Arte Laguna Prize 16 (2022, Venice). In 2023, she received a grant from the Swedish Arts Grants Committee for her contributions to contemporary art photography.

#### **Artist Statement**

My work is shaped by the delicate balance of life I learned to respect growing up in the Arctic, where survival depends on perceiving the smallest signals from nature. Through macro photography, I explore the hidden beauty of dewdrops, mosses, and lichens—elements often overlooked yet essential to the health and resilience of ecosystems. These subjects become visual metaphors for presence, fragility, and the deep interdependence that binds all living things.

As an artist with Aphantasia—an inability to visualise mental images—I experience the world in a non-visual way. I often describe my camera as a kind of "prosthesis" for my imagination: instead of seeing images in my mind, I project emotional and conceptual states outward, and the camera helps me receive them back through the natural world.

Many of my photographs begin as quiet questions or internal dialogues. I enter nature with a sense of inquiry, and in a meditative state of observation, I begin to see visual responses. It is as if nature speaks back to me in a visual language—answering my unspoken thoughts. This intuitive process becomes a collaboration between my inner world and the living environment.

I don't aim to document reality. I aim to reflect invisible landscapes of thought and feeling—made visible through the lens. What I capture is not only what I see, but what I sense, what I ask, and how nature answers.

In a time when technology often distances us from the living world, my work invites viewers to slow down, observe, and reconnect with the subtle, sacred threads that hold everything together. Through these images, I hope to offer a space of contemplation—and a gentle reminder: nature is not separate from us. It listens. It responds. And it reflects us back.

#### CV:

#### Solo Exhibition

2023 — Macro Photography as Another Way to See the World, Persgården Galleri, Visingsö, Sweden

# **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- **2024** The Land of Silence, Musa Pavilion, Venice, Italy
- **2024** *Untouchable*, ADmore Gallery & Studio Lo Verso, Venice, Italy
- 2024 Boomer Art Prize Finalists: The Dark Side, Boomer Gallery, London, UK
- 2024 Woman's Essence Show, Valid World Hall, Barcelona, Spain
- 2024 The New Artist 6th Edition, Boomer Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 Arte Laguna Prize Finalists, Arsenale of Venice, Italy
- **2023** *Photography in the Visual Culture*, Centro Internazionale di Fotografia, Palermo, Italy
- **2021** *Smeraldo*, Sant'Eufemia Art Gallery, Venice, Italy

## **Honors, Grants & Awards**

- 2024 Longlisted, Visual Art Open 2025 (UK)
- 2024 Finalist, Boomer Art Prize 2nd Edition
- 2023 Artist Grant, Swedish Arts Grants Committee
- 2022 Finalist, Arte Laguna Prize 16
- 2020 Arte Laguna Prize 15, Artist in the Spotlight

# **Selected Press & Publications**

- **2024** Jönköping Posten "Inna kan inte se när hon blundar" (Jan 11)
- **2023** *Jönköping Posten* "Lavar blir till Aliens i Innas makrolins" (Aug 22)
- 2023 Photography in the Visual Culture 22/23, Serradifalco Editore
- **2021** New York Style Guide "Discover Sant' Eufemia Gallery and the Emerald Exhibition"
- 2020 Cover feature, Marika Magazine (Issue 468 December), Kavyar

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